



# THE FLY LEAF

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## EARLY AMERICAN IMPRINTS

The following extracts from a letter recently written by the Librarian of the American Antiquarian Society describe an important project:

The American Antiquarian Society announces the forthcoming publication of a Microprint Edition of every existent book, pamphlet, and broadside printed in the United States from 1639 to 1800 (inclusive). The titles will be published in the order in which they are listed in Evans' American Bibliography, after which the items omitted from that bibliography will be reproduced.

Perhaps the chief reason for the decline in the study of American Colonial history has been the fact that its sources have been available to only those graduate students and other researchers who have been fortunate enough to live near the few libraries which have large collections of the printed source materials. These books are not generally available on inter-library loan, and but a very few have ever been reprinted.

The prohibitive cost of conventional printing compelled the Society to consider some form of micro-publication. The Microprint process which will be used turns out a printing press product (i.e. ink on rag paper), the only opaque micro-publication form which meets the specifications of the National Bureau of Standards for

permanence. It is in the form of 6" x 9" cards, each with space for 100 pages of text, published in labeled cloth boxes which can be shelved in the same way as books. More than 3,000,000 cards produced by this process are now in use in the outstanding university and other research libraries throughout the world. Finally, Microprint has the vital advantage of costing less than half as much as any other micro-publication form.

The Microprint Edition will contain the complete text of all books, pamphlets, and broadsides. The microprinting of the serial publications will be deferred to a later date and issued as a supplement. It is estimated that the entire work can be finished in ten years at a cost to each subscriber of \$750.00 per year, with a guarantee that the maximum price will not exceed \$7,500.00. If the number of subscriptions makes it possible, the price of the later annual subscriptions will be materially reduced.

These plans speak for themselves. The Microprint Edition will stand very high on our list of desiderata, and offers a remarkable opportunity for some Friend to make a contribution of essential importance to the further development of American studies at the Rice Institute. The acquisition of bodies of primary material like this is just what is needed to make the Fondren Library an independent center of research.

## BIRDS

An admirable group of books on birds has recently been gathered together on what we may call the Friends' account. These books have been received but not yet catalogued, and might very appropriately be selected as gifts by interested Friends. The first six items were suggested by George Williams of the English Department, the others by the Librarian and his staff. The range of titles inspires the comment that observant and well read ornithologists are in no danger of becoming provincial.

Captain Cecil D. Priest, *The Birds of Southern Rhodesia*. 4 vols. London, 1933. \$25.20.

Jean Delacour, *The Waterfowl of the World*. Vol I. 1954 Vol II to follow. \$14.70.

Richard Meinertzhagen, *Birds of Arabia*. 1954. \$11.76.

Georges Olivier, *Monographie des Pies-Grieques du genre Ianius*. Rouen, 1944. \$11.20.

J.D.D. La Touche, *A Handbook of the Birds of Eastern China*. 2 vols. London, 1925-30. \$28.00



- David A. Bannerman, *The Birds of West and Equatorial Africa*.  
2 vols. Edinburgh, 1953. \$17.64.
- Jean Delacour, *The Pheasants of the World*. 1951. \$31.50.
- Alexander Sprunt and E. B. Chamberlain, *South Carolina Bird Life*. Univ. of South Carolina Press. 1949. \$9.00
- Herbert Brandt, *Arizona and its Bird Life*. Cleveland, 1951. \$15.00.
- Tom Iredale, *Birds of Paradise and Bower Birds*. Melbourne, 1950. An Australiana Society Publication. \$17.50.
- Peter Scott, *Wild Geese and Eskimos*. 1951. \$5.00.
- Althea R. Sherman, *Birds of an Iowa Dooryard*. Boston, 1952. \$3.75.
- Frank S. Stuart, *Wild Wings*. 1952. \$3.50.
- W. T. Miller, *Birds at Home: Camera Studies of Birds of South Africa*. Cape Town, 1947. \$3.00.
- Roland Green, *How I Draw Birds*. London, 1951. \$3.00.
- Lowell Sumner and Joseph S. Dixon, *Birds and Mammals of the Sierra Nevada*. Univ. of California Press, 1953. \$7.50.
- S. Dillon Ripley, *Search for the Spiny Babbler: An Adventure in Nepal*. Boston, 1942. \$4.00.
- Paul A. Zahl, *Flamingo Hunt*. Indianapolis, 1952. \$3.50.
- Proceedings of the Xth International Ornithological Congress, Uppsala, June, 1950. Uppsala, 1951. \$4.00.
- Audubon's *Birds of America*. Popular Edition. New York, 1950. \$2.95. (We have the reprint of 1937, and also six out of seven volumes of the Third Edition.)

## WISDOM ABOUT BOOK COLLECTING

Book Collecting and Scholarship, Essays by Theodore C. Blegen and Others.

Univ. of Minnesota Press, 1954. \$5.00. A beautifully printed and wise little book, which says many things which THE FLYLEAF would like to say or to have said. For example:

"The better the scholar, the more he insists upon seeing the rare book." -- Stanley Pargellis, p. 37.

"Immortality does inhere in books, and no better monument can be established than a library or a collection on some significant theme." -- Louis Wright, p. 53.

"A new town in the State of Massachusetts having done me the honour of naming itself after me, and proposing to build a steeple to their meeting-house, if I would give them a bell, I have advised the sparing themselves the expense of a steeple for the present, and that they would accept of books instead of a bell, sense being preferable to sound." -- Benjamin Franklin, quoted on pp. 44-45. (The passage will be familiar to Franklin fans, but bears repetition.)

Our plans for a bibliography of the book-worm have been changed. The project was too ambitious. We now propose a brief anthology, beginning with the Burns epigram printed in our last. The following verses are by John Dovaston, a writer who has deservedly failed of inclusion in the Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature. We take no responsibility for his grammar, his rhymes, or his entomology.

There is a sort of busy worm  
That all the fairest books deform,  
By gnawing holes throughout them;  
Alike through every leaf they go,  
Yet of its merits naught they know,  
Nor care they aught about them.

Their tasteless tooth will tear and taint  
The poet, patriot, sage or saint,  
Nor sparing wit nor learning;  
Now if you'd know the reason why,  
The best of reasons I'll apply:  
'Tis bread to the poor vermin.

Of pepper, snuff, or 'bacca smoke  
And Russia-calf they make a joke.  
Yet why should sons of science  
These puny, rankling reptiles dread?  
'Tis but to let their books be read,  
And bid the worms defiance.



Occasionally we like to publish the full title of a book just for its own sake. We have never seen the following work, but we doubt whether it is as good as it sounds:

Love and Friendship inseparable betwixt Different sexes. Display'd in a Correspondence between a Gentleman in the Country and a Lady at London. In Two and Twenty Letters. Treating of Politicks, Poetry, Friendship and Love. Publish'd by little Dick Fisher, Student in the Noble Art of Gaming. London: J. Roberts. 1718.

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Here is another one, read by title only, a juvenile of about the year 1795:

The renowned history of Primrose Prettyface. Who by her Sweetness of Temper, and Love of Learning, was raised from being the Daughter of a poor Cottager, to great Riches and the Dignity of Lady of the Manor. For the benefit and imitation of those pretty little boys and girls who would to beauty of body, add beauty of mind.

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## GIFTS

The Fondren Library is pleased to report that microfilm files of the "New York Times", 1851-1905, are being purchased with funds provided by Mr. & Mrs. Milton R. Underwood. Mrs. Hugo Neuhaus, Sr. continues to provide the "Christian Science Monitor" on microfilm, a gift begun in 1950.

Max Freund, Professor Emeritus in German, presented an autographed copy of his translation of "Gustav Dresel's Houston Journal", as well as a microfilm copy of Dresel's manuscript, "Texanisches Tagebuch" which is owned by the Library of Congress. Katherine Waugh Niles Class of '22, sent a copy of her new book for children, "Angel in the Hayloft". The Library has also received an autographed copy of Dr. Hyman Judah Schachtel's recent book, "The Real Enjoyment of Living."

Mrs. George R. Brown has presented a large collection of original Civil War photographs, many of them probably Bradys and O'Sullivans. Some may be unique. When all have been identified, a further report will be made to the Friends.

Mrs. W. P. Neblett brought in an interesting collection of early 20th century novels which had belonged to her husband. An excellent collection of classical music on 78 rpm disks was presented by D. S. Howard.

Duplicate files of architectural and geological magazines were received from Mrs. Foss W. Edminson, Humble Oil Company, and Stanley E. Liljestrang.

From the list of books requested in the last "Flyleaf", Willard Thorp presented "The Columbian Muse" and James W. Phillips gave Watson's "Scrapbook of Inns".

The Shell Development Company gave \$100 for the purchase of books on chemical engineering.

Other gifts of books, no less appreciated, were received from Joseph L. Battista; American Society of Chartered Life Underwriters, Houston Chapter; Clay Products Association of the Southwest; Don M. Deck; Great Southern Life Insurance Company; C. E. Kievlan; Erich Lethmayer; Morton Louie Levy; Grace Smith Little; Kenton Parton; Barbara Peterson; Radoslav A. Tsanoff; James Dean Young; Mrs. R. E. Wright.

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Roy Vernon Sowers, the bookseller of Los Gatos, California, catalogues a life of John Coakley Lettsom, a prominent eighteenth century physician and author, and quotes a fugitive stanza:

When any sick to me apply,  
I physics, bleeds, and sweats 'em;  
If after that they choose to die,  
Why Verily!

I. Lettsom.

(To savor this jest, one must remember that in the handwriting of the time capital I and capital J were identical.)

## GIFTS

Joseph L. Battista	Prescott's "Conquest of Mexico" 3v., 1894
Mrs. George R. Brown	Civil War Photographs
Houston Chapter, Amer. Society of Chartered	Subscription to C.L.U. Journal Life Underwriters
Clay Products Assn. of the Southwest	3 volumes on brick and tile engineering
Don M. Deck	5 German textbooks
Mrs. Ross W. Edminson	files of architectural magazines
Max Freund	"Gustav Dresel's Houston Journal which Dr. Freund trans- lated; and a microfilm copy of "Texanisches Tagebuch", Dresel's manu- script in the Library of Congress
Great Southern Life Insurance Company	21 volumes on life insurance
D. S. Howard	197 phonograph records - an ex- cellent collection of classical music on 78 rpm disks
Humble Oil Company	files of petroleum magazines
G. E. Kievlan	Bronte's "Jane Eyre" Maurois' "Lelia, the Life of George Sand"
Erich Lethmayer	Marboe's "Book of Austria"
Morton Louie Levy	Paper on decoration of Physics Building, with photographs
Stanley E. Liljestrang	architectural periodicals

11.

- Grace Smith Little Little's "Complete Credit and Collection Book"
- Mrs. W. P. Neblett Collection of 105 early 20th century American novels
- Mrs. Hugo Neuhaus, Sr. Continuation of microfilm subscription to "Christian Science Monitor" for 1954-1955
- Katherine Waugh Niles '22 "Angel in the Hayloft", her new book for children
- Kenton Parton 2 volumes on music
- James W. Phillips Watson's "Scrapbook of Inns" volume requested for Friends collection
- Hyman Judah Schachtel "The Real Enjoyment of Living", his recent book
- Shell Development Company \$100 for books on chemical engineering
- Willard Thorp "The Columbian Muse", a volume requested for Friends collection
- Radoslav A. Tsanoff "Nature of Evil" to replace a copy which had been lost
- James Dean Young Visionary Novels of George MacDonald  
Private Diaries of Stendhal
- Mrs. R. E. Wright Gift subscription to "Christian Register"

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The Fondren Library needs the following periodicals to complete its files. If you can supply them, please telephone Mrs. Jameson, JU-4141, Extension 238.

- American Artist Jan-Feb., May, Oct., Dec., 1953
- American Institute of Architects. Journal  
Jan., Mar., May-June, 1952  
July through Dec., 1953
- American Mercury Aug., Sept., Oct., 1953  
Jan., Apr., May, Aug., 1954
- l'Art Sacre Jan-Feb., 1953
- Atlantic Monthly Oct., 1954
- France Illustration June, Oct., 1954
- France Illustration Supplement Theatral et Litteraire  
no. 154 (suppl. to May 1954)
- Freeman Oct. 30, 1950 - Sept. 25, 1951  
Dec. 28, 1953; June 14, 1954
- Holiday All 1954 issues
- Illustrated London News May 22, 1954
- Liturgical Arts Nov., 1952, Feb., 1953, Feb., 1954
- Nation June 5, Aug. 14, Nov. 20, 1954
- New Republic Dec. 13, 1954
- Newsweek October through December 1954
- Reporter Feb. 16, Apr. 13, Apr. 27, May 25, 1954
- Science Digest Jan., Mar., May-July, Oct., Nov., 1954
- Scientific American Feb., Mar., May, Aug., Oct., Nov.,  
1954
- U. S. News and World Report Sept. 3, 1954
- Houston Symphony Society Programs  
May 6-7, 1931; Feb. 18, 1932; Mar. 27, 1933;  
Dec. 9, 1935; Dec. 6, 1937; Apr. 11, 1938;  
Mar. 4, 1940; Mar. 24, 1941; all programs for  
seasons 1941-1947; Dec. 15, 1947; Feb. 5,  
Mar. 11, 1952  
All programs before season 1931-32.

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